



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 22 1999

**1999 Local Government  
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Honorable Carol M. Browner  
Administrator  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW (1 101)  
Washington, DC 20560

Dear Administrator Browner:

On behalf of the **Local** Government Advisory Committee, I am writing to thank you for the Agency's response to the Committee's various reports over the last several years. I believe you are aware that most of the members of the LGAC are new to the Committee and I know that when you have an opportunity to meet with these new members you will be impressed with their experience, judgement and commitment to environmental protection. The new LGAC thought it would be wise to review and prioritize the literally dozens of recommendations contained in the Committee's past reports. This task was assigned to our Implementation Subcommittee and I want to thank Dick Zais and Oel Wingo, Subcommittee Co-Chairs, for the work of their group. The Implementation Subcommittee reported at the last meeting of the **full** LGAC that there were six broad areas for future collaboration with the Agency. These areas are:

- Expanded local liaison at the Regional level
- Consultation with local governments during the **rulemaking** process
- Involvement of local governments in the Performance Partnership process
- Technical assistance and education opportunities, especially for small local governments that lack resources and expertise
- Communication and outreach, both **from** the Agency to local governments and **from** local governments to the Agency
- Resources and **funding**

I also wanted to take this opportunity to update you on recent Local Government Advisory Committee activities.

The Policy Subcommittee continues to work with ECOS through the newly created Local Government Forum to **identify** and replicate **successful** models of **local/state/federal** partnerships. These partnership models will be highlighted in a soon-to-be-published document. Through the Local Government Forum, New Jersey has agreed to a pilot partnership project involving a city, county and the State. Other



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States, including Minnesota, are now considering similar projects. The Forum continues to be a vehicle for local governments, the States and EPA to address issues such as the involvement of locals in the performance partnership process, urban sprawl and smart growth strategies, and other priority issues.

The Implementation Subcommittee has held several productive meetings with senior EPA managers to offer the assistance of the Committee whenever the input of **local** governments is needed. In these meetings, Committee members emphasized that they could assist the Agency in designing rules and programs that work at the local level and that their involvement in the EPA process provided the Agency with enhanced credibility with Federal elected officials. Senior managers have identified several areas for Committee activity. The Subcommittee hopes to expand upon these interactions with senior staff at the next meeting in Washington.

The Outreach Subcommittee has been very effective in engaging both the national associations for local governments (NACo, NATAT, USCM, NLC and NARC) and the regional offices. They have been hard at work discussing what types of assistance are available to local units and how can we do an even better job of getting information, technical assistance and other resources to locals. It has been heartening to see the response of the associations and the regions; there is genuine excitement over this effort.

The Committee thanks you for your outreach to local governments and the leadership you have demonstrated recognizing the need for new partnerships between the Agency and the thousands of small communities, cities, counties and metropolitan regions. These new grass-roots partnerships will be essential if we are to address the non-point source challenges of the coming millenium.

I want to personally thank you for your leadership and support. When you were in Minneapolis not long ago, we discussed a new era of communication, cooperation and collaboration between the Agency and local governments. Since that time, I believe we have made real progress in that regard.

I hope you will be able to join us at this year's Washington meeting of the Committee - you will be impressed by the new members. We plan to invite the national associations to participate in our sessions, so you will have the opportunity to reach many local government constituencies at one meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bill Anderson". The signature is fluid and extends to the right with a long, sweeping tail.

Bill Anderson, Chair  
Local Government Advisory Committee



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUN 7 1999

OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Mr. Bill Anderson  
Chair, Local Government  
Advisory Committee  
300 PHC 250 South Fourth  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Agency is pleased to receive the latest set of recommendations from the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). We realize that local governments must be empowered to meet their environmental stewardship responsibilities and we committed to working with the LGAC to ensure that our local government partners have access to the information, expertise, and resources necessary to build comprehensive, long-term solutions at the local level.

We are pleased also to know that the Committee is working already with the Agency and with the States, through the Environmental Commissioners of the States (ECOS), to address concerns within the broad areas of collaboration that the Committee recommends. The Policy Subcommittee's work with the ECOS/Local Government Forum produced the recent **Partnership Report**, which highlighted some **successful** intergovernmental partnerships currently underway around the country. We look forward to learning about the results of New Jersey's pilot project to use the Environmental Protection **Agency/State Performance Partnership Agreement** process as a model for negotiating partnership agreements with a municipality and a county. The Outreach Subcommittee's working groups on Technical Assistance, and Intergovernmental Liaison should yield some interesting results and **further assist** the Agency in addressing the needs of local governments. The Agency also looks forward to working with the Implementation Subcommittee as they proceed with their rulemaking work and to exploring avenues to address concerns about resources and funding.

The Administrator and I have heard great things about the Committee and, in particular, the work you are doing as Chair. We appreciate the time and effort that all of the Committee members commit personally and professionally to achieving our common goals in environmental protection, and towards working with the Agency to strengthen our partnership.

The Administrator appreciates the invitation to participate in the Committee's next meeting in Washington, D.C. in September. We are working already to establish dates and

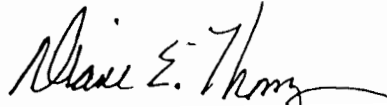
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reserve meeting facilities and we will work closely with the Administrator's office to secure her participation.

I look forward to meeting you and all of the Committee members in September and to working with the Committee in the future. If we can be of further assistance to you, please call me at (202) 260-5200 or Linda Rimer, Deputy for Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 260-4719. As always, you may call Denise Ney at (202) 260-0419.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Diane E. Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diane E. Thompson  
Associate Administrator